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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

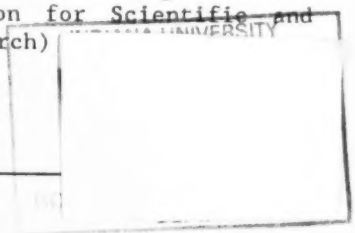
ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
CHILE

IPF:(1992-96) $9 400 000

(CHI/91/017) - Strengthening the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure of the Technical University Federico Santa Maria

Date of approval:	17 December 1991
Expected duration:	Seven months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Education through CONICYT (National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Government cost sharing:	$676 500
Total UNDP budget:	$676 500



Project background

Chile has already undertaken significant efforts to develop its economy; and its eventual position in the group of developed nations will depend decisively on the future efforts in the field of scientific investigation and technological innovation. In these areas, the country lies relatively ahead compared to other countries in the region or countries with a similar level of development. In spite of this, Chile faces a lot of economic restrictions, shortcomings of infrastructure and of equipment impeding the realization of the required investigations in favor of the development of the country.

In order to modernize the productive sector and to enhance the overall innovation process required not only in the universities but also in the private sector, the Government has proposed concrete actions in order to promote a better development in the field of science and technology. To improve the offering of knowledge and strengthen the interlinkage process of universities with private enterprises that will finally use the technological innovations. With the objective to strengthen the institution-building process of the university system and maximize the utilization process of technology, the Government requested UNDP assistance to one of the leading universities in science and technology of the country.

Description of project

The project is a focussed continuation of the project (CHI/89/001) Strengthening the Institutional Capacity for the Modernization of the Technological Infrastructure in Higher Education which had the general approach of establishing a mechanism for the selection and acquisition of material technological infrastructure and a system that may allow to detect the requirements of infrastructure. Taking up the experiences made during the execution of this project, the University Santa Maria in Valparaiso decided to use the services of UNDP and CONICYT to modernize its scientific equipment and thus to dynamize the processes of investigation and modernization of research. At the same time, it is intended to strengthen the scientific capacity of the university, its administration, follow-up and control of

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development and research projects. Project activities will include the selection, international licitation and acquisition of scientific and technological equipment.

The results of the project will directly benefit the university's research and development and hence the groups of researchers that work with them. This will allow the university to make the necessary infrastructure available in a timely manner for the development of advanced technology and at a cost which is internationally competitive. At the end of the project, the quality and quantity of research in science and technology will have improved; and the coordination links with the national productive sector will have been consolidated and increased.

UNDP technical assistance will establish and consolidate a system that will allow to detect the requirements of infrastructure, as well as national and international technological support, on a regular basis. It is intended to continue the efforts of the project CHI/89/001 and establish the mechanisms to provide these activities in a self-sufficient way.

Inputs

UNDP will provide the services of a national coordinator (seven work-months) and administrative support (four work-months); computer and laboratory equipment for research and development; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	14 800
Equipment	657 700
Miscellaneous	4 000
Total	676 500

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